

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 CIAE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

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O O 131931Z SEP 76 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4904

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 26646

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, FR, YU, PINS

SUBJECT: ELYSEE ON POSTPONEMENT GISCARD'S VISIT TO
YUGOSLAVIA

REF: PARIS 26596

1. SUMMARY: ELYSEE INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMBER HAS
ASSURED US CATEGORICALLY THAT SUDDEN POSTPONEMENT
GISCARD'S VISIT TO BELGRADE WAS RESULT NEITHER OF
DIRECT OR INDIRECT FRENCH INITIATIVE; AND THAT, ON
BASIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO FRENCH, THEY DO BELIEVE
TITO'S HEALTH WAS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR SUDDEN
YUGOSLAV POSTPONEMENT. EVEN SO ELYSEE HAS ASKED
FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE TO KEEP ALERT TO OUTSIDE

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POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN OTHER FACTORS AT

PLAY IN THIS YUGOSLAV DECISION.

2. DEVELOPING DETAILS OF THIS VIEW, ELYSEE STAFF MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON HYPOTHESES CURRENTLY CIRCULATING HERE.

3. REGARDING CARLOS' PRESENCE IN YUGOSLAVIA, GOF WAS INDEED "SHOCKED" AT YUGOSLAV FAILURE MAKE PROMPT ARREST. MATTER IS OBVIOUSLY NOT CLOSED. ON OTHER HAND NEITHER QUESTIONS OF GISCARD'S PERSONAL SECURITY NOR GOY'S BEHAVIOR IN MATTER IN WHICH THEY HAVE CLEAR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION RESULTED IN ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT FRENCH MOVE TO POSTPONE GISCARD'S VISIT.

4. AS FOR REASONS YUGOSLAVS MIGHT HAVE HAD, ELYSEE STAFF FIRST CITED DIFFERENCES OVER TREATMENT OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN ISSUED. HE CONFIRMED QUAI VIEW (REFTEL) THAT, AS PARIS UNDERSTANDS SITUATION, THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN REASON FOR YUGOSLAV POSTPONEMENT. FONMIN GUIRINGAUD PERSONALLY SETTLED THIS MATTER WITH YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR IN PARIS SOME DAYS AGO, BY AGREEING TO DROP PARAGRAPH ON NON-ALIGNMENT ALTOGETHER. ELYSEE SAYS, THERE HAS NOT BEEN "SLIGHTEST HINT" FROM YUGOSLAVS SINCE THEN THAT THIS DECISION, WHICH WAS REACHED EASILY HERE, COULD HAVE CONTINUED TO CAUSE TROUBLE IN BELGRADE.

5. ONLY OTHER PROBLEM IN FRENCH-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WHICH, IN ELYSEE VIEW, COULD BE IRRITATING YUGOSLAVS IS QUESTION OF CONTINUED RESIDENCE OF NUMBER OF EXPELLED YUGOSLAV COMINFORMISTS IN FRANCE. GOY CONTINUES TO PRESS HARD FOR THEIR EXTRADITION. GOF HAS MADE CAREFUL JUDICIAL REVIEW, BUT FOUND THEIR BEHAVIOR, ESPECIALLY IN LAST SIX MONTHS, HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY CORRECT SO AS TO PROVIDE NO GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION. HOWEVER THIS TOO IS INSUFFICIENT REASON FOR SPECTACULAR POSTPONEMENT OF STATE VISIT; AND WAS NOT MENTIONED BY GOY IN ANY WAY IN THIS CONNECTION.

6. IN SUM, ELYSEE CAN FIND NO SUFFICIENT OR CONVINCING SECRET

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REASONS AMONG NEURALGIC POINTS IN FRANCE-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS TO CONSTITUTE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR YUGOSLAV POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT YUGOSLAVS THEMSELVES HAD SOUGHT.

7. ON OTHER HAND, THE CASE GOY FONMIN MINIC MADE IN PARIS THAT POSTPONEMENT OF GISCARD'S VISIT WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF SUDDEN DETERIORATION TITO'S

HEALTH WAS CONVINCING. ELYSEE SOURCE SAYS FRENCH ARE
PERSUADED (WE WERE NOT TOLD ON WHAT BASIS) THAT SOME
KIND OF SUDDEN CRISIS IN TITO'S HEALTH DID TAKE PLACE
DURING CEAUSESCU VISIT. ONE INDICATION IS
THAT TITO APPARENTLY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN HUNT WITH
CEAUSESCU, STAYED IN HUNTING LODGE AND JOINED GROUP
ONLY FOR JOINT PHOTOGRAPH. BUT THEN, WHY WAS REST OF

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LIMDIS

CEAUSESCU'S VISIT NOT IMMEDIATELY CALLED OFF? ELYSEE
GATHERS, (PRESUMABLY ON BASIS MINIC'S CONFIDENTIAL
MEETING WITH GISCARD) THAT CEAUSESCU "INSISTED" WITH
"CONSIDERABLE INSENSITIVITY" THAT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
OF HIS PROGRAM BE ADHERED TO. AS A RESULT, TITO MADE
THE EFFORT REQUIRED FOR FINAL PUBLIC APPEARANCES

WITH CEAUSESCU, BUT CANCELLED GISCARD. THAT HE, NEVERTHELESS, SEEMED TO LOOK RATHER FIT IN SEEING CEAUSESCU OFF IS MAIN REASON ELYSEE REMAINS GUARDED IN LENDING FULL CREDENCE (IN ITS CONFIDENTIAL INTERNAL ASSESSMENT) TO THE "HEALTH THEORY" EVEN THOUGH STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY MINIC'S PERFORMANCE IN PARIS.

8. ASKED WHAT ELYSEE THOUGHT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE THE SECRET

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MATTER WITH TITO, FIRST REACTION WAS SAME AS QUAI'S, I.E. THAT TITO HAD SOME CARDIO-VASCULAR PROBLEM. ON QUESTIONING, SOURCE ELABORATED THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD OFFERED NO MEDICAL DETAILS, BUT THAT THIS WAS "IMPRESSION MINIC HAD LEFT WITH GISCARD." THAT TANJUG APPARENTLY WAS TALKING ABOUT LIVER TROUBLE

WAS JUST ONE MORE CONFUSING ASPECT.

9. BECAUSE MEDICAL EXPLANATION FOR GISCARD POSTPONE-MENT LEAVES SOME QUESTIONS UNANSWERED, ELYSEE IS REMAINING ALERT TO OTHER OR CONVERGING EXPLANATIONS, AND HAS SO INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE. FRENCH HAVE NO CLEAR IDEAS WHAT SUCH OTHER EXPLANATIONS MIGHT BE, AND ARE THINKING ONLY VAGUELY ABOUT SUCH ISSUES AS REPORTS OF A CERTAIN ROMANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE USSR, OR POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED SOVIET PRESSURES IN EASTERN EUROPE OF WHICH WE MAY NOT BE AWARE. HOWEVER, AT THIS POINT THIS WAS SPECULATION.

10. ELYSEE CONCLUDED THAT IT WILL BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ANY FURTHER INFO OR IMPRESSIONS ON EVOLVING YUGOSLAV SITUATION WHICH US MAY DEVELOP.

11. ADDRESSEES REQUESTED PROTECT ENTIRE ACCOUNT FULLY.
RUSH

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